



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Santa Ana Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8>
3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, California 92501-3348
Phone (909) 782-4130 - FAX (909) 781-6288



Gray Davis
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May 29, 2003

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Permits Issuance Section (WTR-5) - Terry Oda
U.S. Army District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Carlsbad
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Jorge Leon
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality- James Maughan
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance – Diana Robles
State Department of Health Services, Santa Barbara - Jeff Stone
State Department of Health Services, San Diego – Steve Williams
State Department of Water Resources - Glendale
State Department of Fish and Game - Long Beach
Orange County Water District - Nira Yamachika
City of Lake Elsinore – City Manager
City of Canyon Lake – City Manager
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Riverside County Department of Environmental Health Services
Santa Ana River Dischargers Association
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority – Joseph Grindstaff
Montgomery Watson – Jeff Mohr
Best Best & Krieger LLP - Arthur L. Littleworth
County of Riverside – Supervisor Bob Buster
Orange County Coastkeeper – Garry Brown
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper

**ORDER NO. R8-2003-0067, AMENDING ORDER NO. 00-1 (NPDES NO. CA8000027) -
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELSINORE VALLEY MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT – REGIONAL WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of tentative Order No. R8-2003-0067, NPDES No. CA8000027 for your review and comments. Order No. R8-2003-0067 would amend the waste discharge requirements for the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Regional Water Reclamation Facility, to extend the implementation of Lake Elsinore replenishment pilot project. The project includes the discharge of recycled water from the facility to the Lake.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Recycled Paper

This Order is scheduled for consideration by the Regional Board on July 1, 2003. The Board meeting will be held at the City Council Chambers of Loma Linda (25541 Barton Road, Loma Linda). Although all comments that are provided up to and during the public hearing on this matter will be considered, receipt of comments by June 9, 2003, would be appreciated so that they can be used in the formulation of the final draft requirements that will be transmitted to the Board two weeks prior to the hearing. The final draft requirements may contain changes resulting from comments received from you and others. To view and/or download a copy of the final draft requirements, please access our website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8> on or after June 16, 2003.

If you have any questions, please contact Jun Martirez at (909) 782-3258 or J. Shami at (909) 782-3288.

Sincerely,

Joanne E. Schneider
Environmental Program Manager

Enclosure: Tentative Order No. R8-2003-0067 and Staff Report

JIS/2003-0067.ltr

Please complete and return this copy by June 9, 2003

TO: J. Shami
CRWQCB Region 8
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

STATEMENT OF POSTING NOTICE

I, _____, hereby state
(name of person posting the notices)

THAT I am the discharger or acting on behalf of the discharger,

THAT I have posted a copy of the "Notice of Public Hearing" at each of the following locations:

Location 1: _____
(describe how and where)

Date Posted:

Location 2: _____
(describe how and where)

Date Posted: _____

THAT the notices were posted in conspicuous places in the locality to be affected by the discharge;

THAT the notices pertained to:

Order No. R8-2003-0067 amending Order No. 00-1 of the Santa Ana Regional Water Control Board

NPDES No. CA8000027

Discharger: Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District – Regional Water Reclamation Facility

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true.

(Signature of person who posted the copies of the notice)

Date: _____

Place: _____

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

For
ORDER NO. R8-2003-0067
Amending Order No. 00-1, NPDES NO. CA8000027
For
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Regional Water Reclamation Facility
Riverside County

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, proposes to amend waste discharge requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Regional Water Reclamation Facility to extend the period for implementation of the Lake Elsinore replenishment pilot project from February 1, 2004 to December 1, 2004. The project includes the discharge of tertiary treated recycled water into the lake.

The Board is seeking comments concerning the proposed amendment to waste discharge requirements and the potential effects of the discharge on the water quality and beneficial uses of the affected receiving waters including Lake Elsinore.

The Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed waste discharge requirements as follows:

DATE: July 1, 2003
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: City Council Chambers of Loma Linda
25541 Barton Road
Loma Linda, California

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed Order No. R8-2003-0067. Interested persons are also invited to attend the public hearing and express their views on issues relating to the proposed Order. Oral statements will be heard, but should be brief to allow all interested persons time to be heard. For the accuracy of the record, all testimony (oral statements) should be submitted in writing.

Although all comments that are provided up to and during the public hearing on this matter will be considered, receipt of comments by June 9, 2003, would be appreciated so that they can be used in the formulation of the final draft requirements that will be transmitted to the Board two weeks prior to the hearing. The final draft requirements may contain changes resulting from comments received from the public. To view on/or download a copy of the final draft requirements, please access our website at www.swrch.ca.gov/rwqcb8 on or after June 16, 2003.

The Board's proposed Order, related documents, and all comments and petitions received may be inspected and copied at the Regional Board office, 3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348 (phone 909-782-4130) by appointment scheduled between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies of the proposed Order will be mailed to interested persons upon request to Jun Martinez ((909) 782-3258).

Any person who is physically handicapped and requires special accommodation to participate in this Regional Board Meeting should contact Barbara Laffoon at (909) 782-3285 no later than June 16, 2003. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

July 1, 2003

ITEM:

SUBJECT: Amending Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027, Waste Discharge and Producer/User Water Reclamation Requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District – Regional Water Reclamation Facility, Order No. R8-2003-0067.

DISCUSSION:

On February 25, 2000, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027, prescribing waste discharge requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Regional Water Reclamation Facility, for the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater to Temescal Creek. Order No. 00-1 was amended by Order No. 01-70.

On January 23, 2002, the Board adopted Order No. R8-2002-0008-A02, amending Order No. 00-1 to authorize the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater from EVMWD's Regional Water Reclamation Facility to Lake Elsinore as part of a two-year lake replenishment pilot project. . The pilot project includes the discharge of up to 4480 acre-feet per year of recycled water provided by EVMWD and Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), and the discharge of up to 5000 acre-feet per year of groundwater from three wells located at the east end of the lake. Order No. R8-2002-0009-A01 amended Order No. 99-5 to authorize EMWD to discharge up to 1500 acre-feet of recycled water per year to the lake when it was necessary to supplement the recycled water discharged by EVMWD to meet the total planned recycled water discharge of 4480 acre-feet per year. Both EVMWD and EMWD were granted authorization for recycled water discharges to the lake for a two-year period, which expires on February 1, 2004.

Initiation of recycled water discharges was contingent on the Executive Officer's approval of an appropriate Lake monitoring and reporting program. That program was approved and is now being implemented.

Although the Lake Elsinore replenishment pilot project implementation was approved by the Regional Board on January 23, 2002, recycled water discharges commenced approximately six months later, on June 12, 2002. The delay resulted, in part, from the need to develop and refine an acceptable Lake monitoring program. Per project decision criteria established prior to the commencement of the recycled water discharges, the discharges were suspended on August 2, 2002 due to the high chlorophyll levels measured in the lake. However, high chlorophyll levels were measured prior to the onset of the recycled water discharges and continued high despite the termination of the discharges. Since there was no evident correlation between chlorophyll levels and recycled water discharges, the discharges were resumed in late September 2002. Cumulatively, no recycled water discharges occurred during six to eight months of the authorized pilot project period.

Three quarterly monitoring reports on the pilot project have been submitted to the Regional Board to date. The reports conclude, in part, that continued monitoring will quantify the longer-term effects of recycled water addition on water quality in Lake Elsinore and assess the lake's ability to assimilate external inputs of nutrients.

EVMWD and EMWD have requested that their waste discharge requirements be amended further to extend authorization for the pilot project, including their recycled water discharges, to December 1, 2004 to allow collection of data necessary to complete the pilot project and assess the effects of the discharges on Lake Elsinore. EMWD has also requested that the 1500 acre-feet per year discharge limitation be revised to allow EMWD to discharge recycled water up to the 4480 acre-feet per year cap placed on discharges by both EMWD and EVMWD. The 4480 acre-feet per year cap would remain; modifying the amount of recycled water that could be discharged by EMWD would enhance the flexibility of the project.

Board staff believes that the discharger's request for extended authorization for recycled water discharges is reasonable. Additional data concerning the effects of recycled water discharges on Lake Elsinore should help to address questions related to long-term maintenance of stable lake levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2003-0067, as presented.

Comments were solicited from the following agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Permits Issuance Section (WTR-5) - Terry Oda
U.S. Army District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Carlsbad
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Jorge Leon
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality- James Maughan
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance – Diana Robles
State Department of Health Services, Santa Barbara - Jeff Stone
State Department of Health Services, San Diego – Steve Williams
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Orange County Coastkeeper – Garry Brown
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

ORDER NO. R8-2003-0067

Amending Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027
Waste Discharge and Producer/User Reclamation Requirements

for

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Regional Water Reclamation Facility
Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter, Board), finds that:

1. On February 25, 2000, the Board adopted Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027, prescribing Waste Discharge and Producer/User Reclamation Requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's (EVMWD) Regional Water Reclamation Facility for the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater to Temescal Creek. Order No. 00-1 was amended by Order No. 01-70 on July 20, 2001 to correct some inadvertent omissions.
2. On January 23, 2002, the Board adopted Order No. R8-2002-0008-A02, amending Order No. 00-1 to authorize the implementation of a project that would include the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater from EVMWD's Regional Water Reclamation Facility to Lake Elsinore, and the discharge of groundwater to the Lake from three island wells located at the east end of the Lake. The intent of this project is to provide additional water to Lake Elsinore to increase and help stabilize water levels in the Lake. The volume of recycled water available from EVMWD for supplementing the Lake level is estimated to be 2.0 to 4.0 mgd (2,240 to 4,480 acre-feet per year). When EVMWD is unable to provide this volume of recycled water, the deficit could be filled by the discharge of recycled water by Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). The island wells have a production capacity sufficient to provide 3,000 to 5,000 acre-feet of water per year.
3. Order No. R8-2002-0008-A02 prohibited the discharge of recycled water to the Lake beyond February 1, 2004, when the replenishment pilot project will terminate.
4. On March 21, 2003, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District requested that Order No. 00-1 be amended to extend the termination date for the replenishment pilot project from February 2004 to December 2004. The replenishment pilot study was intended to acquire two years of data but due to the delayed start and non-discharge period of the project, two years of data will not be available by February 2004. Extending the replenishment pilot project will allow the collection of data necessary to complete the pilot project and assess the effects of recycled water discharges on the lake.

5. In accordance with Water Code Section 13389, amending the waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from those provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act contained in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100), Division 13 of the Public Resources Code.
6. The Board has notified the discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
7. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 00-1 as amended by Orders No. 01-70 and R8-2002-0008-A02, be amended as follows:

1. Provisions Section of Order No. 00-1, change Provision K. 29. as follows:
 29. This Replenishment Pilot Project terminates on December 1, 2004.
2. All other conditions and provisions of Order No. 00-1, as amended, shall remain unchanged.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on July 1, 2003.

Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer